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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD

TO THE
GOVERNOR OF MONTANA
HONORABLE FORREST H. ANDERSON

FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1969

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BENJAMIN W. HILLEY, PRESIDENT
GREAT FALLS
E. E. PALMQUIST, VICE PRESIDENT
HELENA
DONALD H. BRUNELL, SECRETARY-TREASURER
BUTTE

ROOM 323, WHEAT BUILDING
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
449-3404

STATE OF MONTANA

ELECTRICAL BOARD

The Honorable Forrest H. Anderson
Governor
State of Montana
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Governor Anderson:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 82-4002, R.C.M. 1947, there is herewith transmitted to you the report of the State Electrical Board covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 1969.

During the 1968-1969 fiscal year a new electrical inspection procedure implemented, duplication of inspections resolved, audit completed, and record keeping revised. Increase of existing inspection service contemplated because of increased construction.

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Hale

John V. Hale,
Director

JVH:mlc

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Services Provided; Objectives; Target Groups; Achievements; and Cost and Performance Summary.

STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD

OFFICER TERM OF OFFICE	HOME ADDRESS
Leslie H. Meierding, President 7-1-66 to 6-30-69	520 Woodford, Missoula
Benjamin W. Hilley, Vice-President 2-15-69 to 6-30-70	#3 Park Garden Estates, Great Falls
E. E. (Buzz) Palmquist, Secy-Treas. 2-15-69 to 6-30-71	630 Monroe, Helena

PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

John V. Hale, Director
Mary Louise Crawford, Secretary

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

#323 Wheat Bldg.
Helena

The statute relating to the operations of the State Electrical Board appears in Sections 66-2801 through 66-2820, R.C.M. 1947, as amended by Montana Session Laws of 1967 and 1969.

Section 66-2816 R.C.M. 1947, amended by Section 1, Chapter No. 199, Montana Sessions Laws 1967, provides that,

> Montana resident electricians who, prior to ~~the effective date of this act~~ July 1, 1967, have had at least four (4) years practical experience in installing electric wires and equipment covered by the National Electrical code shall not be required to take the examination, but shall be issued a license by the board upon payment of the proper license fee and furnishing of proof satisfactory to the board of such four (4) years experience; provided, such application is made within sixty (60) days after July 1, ~~1965~~ 1967.

Section 66-2802, R.C.M. 1947, amended by Section 19, Chapter No. 366, Montana Sessions Laws 1969, provides that,

> (2) Rules and standards relating to buildings and equipment covered by the state or a municipal building code are not effective until approved by the state building code council and filed with the secretary of state.

Administrative and operating policies are contained in the Electrical Board Rules and Regulations.

PRINCIPAL GOALS

The State Electrical Board exists to protect people and property in Montana from the danger of electrically caused hazards, to provide and enforce rules and regulations for safe electrical installations, to determine that persons making electrical installations are qualified by experience and examination, and to inspect electrical installations and equipment to insure their meeting the required safety standards.

PROGRAM	COST 1968-1969 F.Y.
Electricians Licensing and Regulation	$ 89,297
Total	$ 89,297

ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Achievements. Beginning with the 1968-1969 fiscal year, the Board adopted a new electrical inspection procedure whereby inspectors were employed and paid a monthly salary. They were previously considered independent contractors and paid a percentage of the inspection fee collected. This change resulted in giving better service to the public, electrical contractor and builder, a more uniform enforcement of electrical safety standards, a more thorough inspection, better control of by whom electrical installations were being made, and closer contact with the inspector in the field.

The duplication of electrical inspections within the corporate limits of a majority of the major cities in the state was resolved. This was accomplished by reaching satisfactory agreements with the cities involved, whereby only one electrical inspection would be made, either by the city department or the state.

No audit of the Board's account having been made since its creation in 1965, one was completed during this fiscal year for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1966, 1967 and 1968. Revisions to the recording and accounting systems were instituted.

A reciprocal electrician license agreement was established between the State of Montana and North Dakota.

During the 1968-1969 fiscal year there were 5561 electrical inspection permits issued for either new, remodeled and repaired electrical installations. There were also 316 electrical contractors, 654 master electrician, and 685 journeyman electrician licenses issued. 94 applications for license reviewed and 34 examinations given new applicants.

1. PROGRAM: ADMINISTRATION

REQUIRED IMPLEMENTATION ACTION: EXECUTIVE

PRIORITY RATING: TOP

CATEGORY: INCREASING EXISTING SERVICES

Recommendation. Hiring of an additional part-time 42% electrical inspector to cover areas with increased construction.

Discussion. Increased construction in the western portion of Montana and the large and remote area to be covered, required the addition of an part-time inspector. The increase of service assured the public of an electrical installation relatively free from electrical hazard, made according to minimum safety standards and supplied them with faster more efficient service.

2. PROGRAM: ADMINISTRATION

REQUIRED IMPLEMENTATION ACTION: LEGISLATIVE

PRIORITY RATING: TOP

CATEGORY: INCREASING EXISTING SERVICES

Recommendation. Change in compensation to Board Members.

Discussion. Board members are now allowed by statute "actual and necessary expenses". Board members being required to lose time from their regular occupation at a cost to them of wages should be compensated for time lost attending meetings. The journeyman member of the Board stands to lose approximately $44.00 in income for every day spent attending to board business.

PROJECT COSTS BY OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE AND SOURCE OF FUNDING

1968-1969 FISCAL YEAR

PROGRAM: ELECTRICIAN LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services.....$	59,980
Operations.....	28,858
Capital.....	------
Grants & Benefits.....	459
Total Expended.....$	89,297

SOURCE OF FUNDING

Earmarked Revenue Fund	
Electrical Board Account.....$	89,297
Total Funding.....$	89,297

ELECTRICIANS LICENSING AND REGULATIONS

Services Provided. Administration of the purpose of the Electrical Safety Act by determining that persons making electrical installations for others on private or public structures are qualified and licensed by qualification, experience and examination to perform such work.

Establishing minimum safety provisions considered necessary for safety. Compliance therewith and proper maintenance will result in an installation essentially free from electrical hazard. The 1968 National Electrical Code, National Fire Protection Association pamphlet no.70, approved by the U.S. of America Standards Institute, except such part or parts as are changed or modified, was adopted as the minimum safety standards for electrical installations in Montana. Copies of the National Electrical Code, information and interpretation on the use of the code are available to users and installers of electrical equipment and apparatus.

Inspection of electrical installations made in private or public buildings is provided to assure the owner that the minimum safety standards of the code have been complied with by the installer.

Objectives. Electrically caused hazards often occur because of faulty wiring practices, overloading of wiring systems, methods or usage not in conformity with safety standards, and installations made by inexperienced persons.

It is the prime objective of this program that electrical installations made for others in private or public buildings be made by qualified licensed electricians and that all electrical installations be inspected for safety, thereby reducing known electrical hazards to a bare minimum.

Target Groups. Fundamentally, the people of Montana are the benificiaries of the program, as its purpose is to protect the health and safety of the people from the danger of electrically caused shocks, fires and explosions and to protect property from the hazard of electrically caused fires and explosions. Specific target groups at which the program is directed are those persons who undertake electrical installations for others or engage in or work at the business, trade or calling of electrical contractor, master electrician or journeyman electrician and those owners doing their own work on property owned by them.

Achievements. The program resulted in a more timely, thorough and efficient inspection procedure by persons more versed in electrical safety problems. It increased by approximately 4200 the number of electrical installations that would not have had an inspection service available. Installations were also made with a better quality of workmanship a result of inspection and licensing.

Cost and Performance Summary.

	------ Fiscal Years ------	
	1968-1969	1969-1970
Cost.....	$89,297	$92,467
Permormance:		
License Fees	1,655	1,639
Inspections	5,561	5,789